National Agricultural Summary

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HIGHLIGHTS

Crops quickly ripened in the Great Plains, western Corn Belt, and lower Mississippi Valley, as triple-digit daytime highs covered most of the lower Mississippi Valley and extended northward into the northern Great Plains. Precipitation eased moisture shortages and aided crop conditions in parts of the central High Plains, Corn Belt, along the Gulf Coast, and in the southern Piedmont, but severe storms damaged crops in isolated areas of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Missouri. Meanwhile, moisture shortages increased and crop conditions slightly deteriorated in most areas of the Great Plains and Corn Belt. The small grain harvest continued without interruption in the northern Great Plains and Pacific Northwest. Crops were aided by mostly seasonal weather in California.

Corn: Eighty-eight percent of the crop was at or beyond the dough stage, 57 percent was dented, and 13 percent was mature. Development was about equal to last year's pace, with 89 percent at or beyond the dough stage, 57 percent dented, and 10 percent mature. All three stages were about 1 week ahead of their 5-year averages of 77, 39, and 7 percent, respectively. Above-normal temperatures accelerated development in the western Corn Belt and Great Plains, while cooler-than-normal temperatures hindered progress in the eastern Corn Belt and Atlantic Coastal Plains. In Colorado, 31 percent entered the dough stage and 39 percent progressed to the dent stage. Fields at or beyond the dent stage nearly doubled in Iowa, advancing 31 percentage points, to 64 percent. In Kansas and Kentucky, 35 and 45 percent was mature, respectively, almost triple the 5-year average in both States. Progress lagged in Michigan, where acreage at or beyond the dough stage was about half the normal pace of 54 percent. Development also lagged in Wisconsin, where denting progress was 11 percentage points behind the 24-percent average. Excessive heat and increasing moisture shortages stressed late-maturing fields in the western Corn Belt and adjacent parts of the Great Plains. Rain improved conditions in Colorado, Kentucky, and Missouri. In Illinois, conditions deteriorated due to dry weather in the northern half of the State, while heavy rain, strong winds, and hail damaged fields in the southern half.

Soybeans: Ninety-five percent of the acreage was setting pods and 7 percent was dropping leaves. Both stages were slightly ahead of last year's pace and 1 week ahead of the average for this date. Above-normal temperatures quickly ripened fields in the western Corn Belt and Mississippi Delta, while below-normal temperatures limited progress in the eastern Corn Belt. Development was most advanced in the lower Mississippi Valley, especially in Louisiana and Mississippi, where 40 and 37 percent, respectively, was dropping leaves, well ahead of the 5-year average. Fields also ripened far ahead of normal in Kansas and Nebraska, where 35 and 15 percent, respectively, was dropping leaves. Development was less advanced in Arkansas and Kentucky, although fields rapidly entered the pod setting stage and progress was ahead of normal. Development was slow in Ohio and remained well behind normal in Michigan. Conditions deteriorated in the Great Plains, western Corn Belt, and lower Mississippi Valley due to hot, dry weather. Cooler weather and precipitation benefited fields in Ohio and Wisconsin.

Cotton: Bolls were opening on 31 percent of the crop, slightly behind last year, but ahead of the 28-percent average. Above-normal temperatures accelerated ripening in the southern Great Plains, lower Mississippi Valley, and adjacent areas in the Southeast. About three-fourths of the acreage had bolls opening in Louisiana and Mississippi, compared with the normal pace of about 50 percent. In Arkansas, acreage with bolls opening doubled to 30 percent, while in Missouri and Tennessee, acreage with bolls opening advanced 17 percentage points. More than one-third of the crop had bolls opening in Alabama and Georgia, but progress was slightly slower due to cloudy, cooler weather. Bolls were opening slower than normal in Texas, but the harvest pace, which was aided by dry weather all week, progressed slightly ahead of the 5-year average. Below-normal temperatures hindered development along the Atlantic Coastal Plains, as bolls opening remained well behind the 5-year average in North Carolina and Virginia. Progress remained ahead of normal in Arizona due to hot weather. Increasing moisture shortages stressed many fields, especially in Mississippi and Texas, while rain improved crop conditions in Georgia. In California, mild weather hindered development, but improved crop conditions.

Small grains: The spring wheat and barley crops were 84 and 86 percent harvested, respectively, more than 1 week ahead of the 5-year average and about 3 weeks ahead of last year's pace. Hot, dry weather quickly ripened fields and aided harvest progress in the upper Mississippi Valley, across the northern Great Plains, and into the Pacific Northwest. The spring wheat harvest season ended in South Dakota, and the barley harvest neared completion in Minnesota. The oat harvest was 95 percent complete, about 1 week ahead of last year and the average for this date. The harvest pace remained active in Minnesota, North Dakota, and Pennsylvania.

Rice: Ninety-four percent of the crop was headed, equal to this date last year, but slightly behind the 5-year average. Twenty-two percent was harvested, equal to last year's pace and slightly ahead of the 20-percent average for this date. Fields rapidly entered the heading stage in California during the week, even though temperatures were slightly cooler than normal. Harvest progress was unhindered in Texas, but rain limited progress in Louisiana. In interior areas of the Mississippi Delta, the harvest pace slowly gained momentum.

Sorghum: Seventy percent of the sorghum acreage was turning color and 37 percent of the crop was mature, more than 1 week ahead of last year and the average for this date. Above-normal temperatures accelerated ripening, especially in the central Great Plains. More than one-fourth of the acreage began turning color in Illinois and Nebraska last week. In Arkansas, about three-fourths of the acreage was mature, compared with the normal rate of just over one-fourth. Fifty-five percent was harvested in Texas. Conditions deteriorated in parts of the Great Plains due to excessive heat and severe moisture shortages.